Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-052
Tuesday
17 March 1992

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-052 *17 March 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PDC Lawmakers Concerned About Venezuela *[Santiago TV]* 2
Aylwin Closes Conference on Democratization *[Santiago TV]* 2

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Melendez Concludes Visit to Russia, Ukraine *[Havana Radio]* 3
PRC Ambassador Tours Villa Clara Province *[Havana Radio]* 3
Colombian Consul General Discusses Relations *[Havana TV]* 3
GRANMA Discusses 'Collapse' of USSR *[Havana Radio]* 3

Haiti

National Assembly Meeting Postponed to 18 Mar *[Bonaire Radio]* 5
Belizaire Responds to Executive's Move to Court *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Belizaire Discusses Agreement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Senator's Bodyguard Attacked at Parliament 15 Mar *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
PNDPH Urges Parliamentarians To Ratify Accord *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Human Rights Center Supports Ratification *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Rebel Commander Sees Improved UN Role *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
FMLN Wants Rebels Tried in El Salvador *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
FMLN Communique Condemns Murder of Worker *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 9
Noncompliance With Peace Agreements Charged *[Radio Venceremos]* 9

Guatemala

President Says Government 'Has Won' Over URNG *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 14 Mar]* 10

Nicaragua

PLI Communique Criticizes Economic Policy *[Managua Radio]* 10
Lacayo, Opposition on Solutions to Problems *[LA PRENSA 14 Mar]* 11
* FSLN Strength in Departments Described *[BARRICADA 6 Feb]* 12

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Calls U.S. Ambassador 'Good Friend' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 14
President Menem Warns Striking Railroad Workers *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 14
Manzano on Constitutional Reform, Drug Issues *[TELAM]* 15
Importance of 'Agroindustrial Complex' Analyzed *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 14 Mar]* 15

* Federal Intervention of Corrientes Analyzed 18
* Electoral Impasse *[LA PRENSA 12 Feb]* 18
* Political Test *[LA PRENSA 10 Feb]* 19

Bolivia

Paz Views Cabinet Reshuffle, 'Social Upheaval' *[La Paz TV]* 20
Paz Says U.S. Ties Show Strength, Stability *[La Paz TV]* 20

Chile

RN Executive Board Views Municipal Elections *[Santiago Radio]* 21
Krauss, Valdes Criticize RN *[Santiago Radio]* 21
PSCh Leader Rebuts FRG Envoy on Honecker *[Santiago Radio]* 21
Manglapus Comments on Philippine Elections *[Santiago TV]* 22

Ecuador

Borja Replies to Amazonic Municipality Demands *[Quito Radio]* 22

Paraguay

Corps Commander Discusses Party Affiliations *[NOTICIAS 11 Mar]* 23

Uruguay

Lacalle Views Internal Situation, Integration *[Madrid EFE]* 23
Government Announces 15 Percent Cut in Spending *[Madrid EFE]* 24

Venezuela

AD Confirms Trust in Perez Administration *[Caracas TV]* 25

Venezuela

The Democratic Action's National Executive Council announced today that the party has "categorically confirmed" its trust in President Carlos Andres Perez and his administration, Caracas TV reports. In an official communique, the AD states that Perez is "the only person" capable of handling the current situation. The AD also confirmed its position that Perez should complete the term in office "for which he was elected by the people in a sovereign, universal, direct, and secret way."

Haiti

Bonaire radio reports that the National Assembly has once again postponed a meeting to consider ratification of the agreement negotiated to resolve the country's political crisis. According to the report, "Haitian officials" have stated that there are "still many uncertainties about the fate of the agreement." The meeting has been rescheduled for 18 March.

PDC Lawmakers Concerned About Venezuela

PY1503025292 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Speakers in recorded portion identified by captions]

[Text] Lawmakers affiliated with the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] in Latin American and European countries met in the former Congress building in Santiago to discuss democratization in Latin America. Also attending the international conference were German Ambassador Wiegand Pabsch, former Chilean Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, and Interior Minister Enrique Krauss.

Several lawmakers voiced concern about the stability of the democratic system in South America, especially in Venezuela, where a coup attempt was staged a few weeks ago.

[Begin recording] [Venezuelan Senator Dagoberto Gonzalez of the DC-COPEI, Christian Democracy-Committee of Independent Political Electoral Organization] Thus we can infer the need for us truly to strengthen democracy throughout Latin America. We must strengthen democracy to discourage this type of military uprising, which can in no way be instrumental in solving the people's problems.

[Argentine Deputy Luis Macaya] It is serious because it has affected us all. Thus we must convey our solidarity with the sister republic of Venezuela.

[Senator Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle, Chilean Christian Democratic Party president] We are undoubtedly supporting every effort aimed at consolidating the Venezuelan democracy and COPEI; that is, the Venezuelan Christian Democratic Party is deeply committed to this process and it is seeking a national consensus to overcome the Venezuelan crisis. [end recording]

Aylwin Closes Conference on Democratization

PY1603193392 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin today stated that democracy cannot resolve all our problems, but it is the best system through which to address them.

Aylwin said this in his closing speech to an international conference on democratization in the Southern Cone that was attended by foreign personalities and local politicians. He stated that the new Latin American democracies have overcome the atmosphere of economic crisis and pessimism that existed at their inception.

Aylwin said that the restoration of democracy in Chile promoted the normalization of institutional relations, the reinstatement of a democratic structure that assigns a leading role to the civilian government and, above all, an atmosphere of social peace and reconciliation. He added that he believes that some parts of the Constitution must be reformed because the institutional system inherited from the authoritarian government contains undemocratic elements. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Melendez Concludes Visit to Russia, Ukraine

FL1603183492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Ernesto Melendez Bachs, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, has ended his 10-day visit to Russia and Ukraine where he met with leaders and businessmen of those republics. In both states, the Cuban representative spoke about the possibilities of continuing bilateral cooperation in different areas, within the context of the cooperative relations established between the parties.

During his stay in Moscow, Melendez talked with Yegor Gaydar, deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, Pyotr Aven, chairman of foreign economic relations, and with businessmen and other personalities.

In Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, Melendez met with Boris Paton, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and other experts related to trade with Cuba.

This news is according to dispatches from PRENSA LATINA.

PRC Ambassador Tours Villa Clara Province

FL1603232292 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2052 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] At the end of a visit to Villa Clara Province on 14 and 15 March, PRC Ambassador to Cuba Chen Jiuchang told the media in Villa Clara Province that bilateral relations have now been totally restored and have shown strong development. Ambassador Chen added that with the development of these relations, exchanges of all kinds will increase, and that this will provide opportunities for greater mutual aid and collaboration. The ambassador also expressed the willingness of the people and governments of both countries to promote to an even greater extent current relations of cooperation, convinced that together we will advance along the path of socialism.

The distinguished diplomat and a large retinue from the PRC Embassy in Cuba toured centers of scientific interest and research centers in Villa Clara Province, as well as the Cuba-China Friendship Cooperative sponsored by the PRC Embassy.

Colombian Consul General Discusses Relations

FL1703024692 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Gustavo Orozco Restrepo, the Republic of Colombia's consul general in Cuba, has made public details of the work accomplished since bilateral relations between Colombia and Cuba were reestablished last year. During a meeting with the Cuban press, Orozco reported that there exists a system of visits and exchanges between the consulates and Governments of Cuba and Colombia aimed at making trade more fluid; this trade had never totally disappeared despite the nonexistence of diplomatic relations. The possibility of setting up joint ventures is also being studied.

Orozco said there is particular interest in the area of tourism, with the eventual regularization of flights, and in the judicial domain in the interest of cooperation against drug trafficking. For cultural exchanges, small enterprises that are expanding have already been (?established), and there are plans to set up a Colombian cultural center in Cuba.

The Colombian consul confessed that he was a Latin Americanist, a friend of Cuba, and someone who respects a people's right to self-determination.

GRANMA Discusses 'Collapse' of USSR

FL1603235592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Mar 92

[GRANMA 14 Mar article by (Eduardo del Llano Marantes): "Swan Songs and Chicken Flights"—read by announcer]

[Text] With the feverish cooperation of the Russian iconoclasts, among others, the West's ideological-industrial complex has been imposing right and left throughout the world a triumphant reading of what we Cubans call the collapse [desmerengamiento]. Given the obsolescence of the theoretical products which corresponded to the policies of building bridges and internal erosion, such as the convergence of the two antagonistic systems, the postindustrial society, socialism with a human face, and so many others that have exhausted their reason for being and have fortunately fallen into the open pit of the geopolitical space which the European socialist community occupied, a new generation of writings is ready for consumption.

For example, *The End of History* made its debut on the market under the generous auspices of the U.S. Government's propaganda apparatus. In some cases, the market economy, neoconservatism, democratic socialism, social economy, and economic democracy are offered half-assembled so as to satisfy the desire for a starring role of certain national strategists, who are capable of assembling a perfect capitalism out of thin air, with social justice and a democratic government that is somewhat Frenchified because of its resemblance to the enlightened men of the 18th century.

Thousands of propagandists and Soviet specialists in the United States and West Europe suddenly saw themselves threatened with unemployment when in Russia a few wise men—hailed by the United States and West Europe as democrats and leaders of the new Left—discovered that the solitary explosion in 1917 in the backward and impoverished empire of the czars, through which Lenin and the Bolsheviks defied even the predictions of the

classic communists who expected simultaneous revolutions in the developed countries, was a historical error.

The epilogue of the regressive processes in East Europe, which broke with the alliance system and the social order that had resulted from the Soviet victory of the Second World War, seems to be taking place in the vast Eurasian space and the complex mosaic of nationalities and peoples where the great socialist revolution of October was produced.

But even before this there was an earthshaking prologue in the Soviet Union, whose epicenter was perestroyka. Later, the political and military concessions were unleashed with the effect of a shock wave, and, in an interminable series, gave rise to devastating confusion. This was later explained as an unavoidable consequence of respect for the just principle of free choice, a unilateral and exclusive practice imposed by the Soviet leaders which created a situation that demoralized communists and patriots.

The successive approaches to an understanding of the causes that would explain the compulsion felt by important sectors of the populace to remove the governing communist parties from power usually go beyond their errors and mistakes in favor of the hypothesis that, essentially, everything was due to the fact that the transition to socialism in these countries was not the result of an authentic revolution in any of these cases, but rather the victorious presence of the Red Army and the Yalta Agreement. Of course, when the enormous cost to humanity of the accumulation of capital which gave rise to the capitalist system is recalled, the polemics about the legitimacy of social changes in East Europe become irrelevant.

Nevertheless, other evidence arises and acquires the value of social truth, which as such, as Che said, is above any other argument. The steeply escalating recession that has taken place in the Soviet Union shows that even though a revolution is authentic, this does not mean that it is necessarily irreversible. The same kind of restoration was seen historically in the case of the French Revolution before the definitive triumph of bourgeois ideas over feudalism.

It appears to be a truism; but even in the middle of the eighties, when, thanks to the efficiency of an enormous defense and security operation and the geopolitical background of that situation, the collapse of the Polish socialist experience was postponed, the truce was interpreted as a testimony to the irreversibility of the new social regime. But if there was anyone who did not believe this, it was Reagan and the current pope; as was learned later, they gambled on forcing the fall of socialism in that country without letting themselves be impressed by historical determinism.

Besides banal theorizing, the genuine nature of each specific national context of a process of revolutionary changes aimed at replacing the capitalist regime is—who can doubt it—a vital question. Contrary to all the historical precedents concerning the transition from one socioeconomic form to another, the driving forces of the revolution can only play their role in the whole process of socialist construction in a conscious way. Fidel has said it even more precisely and concisely: Socialism is the voluntary work of the people. This voluntary nature of the historical thought and experience of the Cuban Revolution does not assume acquiescence—which is relatively easy to feign—but rather a daily effort in material work, human improvement, and in confronting the counterrevolution, even risking one's life whenever it is necessary.

The original ideas of industrial reconversion, economic acceleration, and the fight against corruption that made up the discourse and attempts at renovation from the top levels of the CPSU are today mute sphinxes, archeological remains, witnesses, in spite of themselves, to the labyrinth in which they were abandoned.

The transparency that legitimate alternatives to information management could provide for the sake of economic development, coexistence, and civilization became a savage, self-destructive apostasy. In the periods between electoral marathons, the people who had opened up unknown paths for humanity and paid for it like no one else watched, on television in parliamentary forums, the tearing apart like a living person of a system to which, with all its imperfections and even tragic errors, they owed an unprecedented achievement of national and social emancipation, starting with the enormous destruction caused by the First World War and imperialist intervention.

This same system had brought about the resurrection of the country, like the phoenix, from the ashes of the most recent world conflagration: that is, the creation of a powerful union of states which was destroyed twice in less than 25 years. The bells rang in mourning for perestroyka when they went from the encouraging project for renovation and perfecting socialism to an attempt to establish capitalism, without capital or capitalists, in a conglomerate of states whose territorial boundaries include one-sixth of the world and where, with few exceptions, 70 years ago the system had barely reached the premonopolistic phase or had not gone beyond the semifeudal state.

The indignant embarrassment of the truly educated intellectuals of what was once that great country, the astonishment of the world's intelligentsia, and the poorly hidden scorn of Western academic circles regarding the effort to organize in 500 days a historic transition that takes decades are understandable. But the swan song took place on 23 and 24 August 1991. This time, in the name of democracy, power was used outside the institutions and the law in one of the most detrimental practices which have never been part of the essence of socialism.

The CPSU was made illegal, and its enigmatic dissolution occurred. Then there was the humiliating confiscation of its property and the opening of its archives to anticommunist, ultraconservative research centers of the United States. That party, which, out of 20 million members, still had approximately 17 million members at that time, could be dissolved with impunity by decree because it had first been dismembered by factionalism. It was leaderless, contaminated by chaos, and stricken by a suicidal nihilism. It was no longer even a shadow of what it had once been. It would need a genius like Goya to produce a much more terrifying image: Saturn devoured by his children.

We in the Third World contemplate the cloud of dust rising from the rubble of the multinational Soviet Union. It is frightening to realize that a new unipolar world is being born, to which new, hungry and dependent countries will be added. Hope lives and grows in Cuba. We are marching in a close formation in which there is no room for the panic-stricken. We do not have an apocalyptic calling, but only those who are willing to do anything and do not invent shortcuts toward retreat or surrender will endure and merit respect in this world.

Both the strategic assumption that the West would help with its surplus capital to save a socialism whose leaders declared it in crisis and immediately afterwards tore their clothing, and the sacrifice of national unity and the expectation of a fair distribution of the social wealth on the altars of neoconservatism will pass into the annals of political cretinism.

It remains to be seen how the United States will act in the future when it finds itself faced with the dilemma of whether to respect or suppress the willingness and the self-determinism of any people expressed in a national consensus for profound changes, even in West Europe, because the counterrevolution will not triumph anywhere forever.

The destruction of Salvador Allende could have at least served so that people would not harbor any illusions about the respect imperialism shows toward the renowned freedom of choice. Not in vain did imperialism plead with such emphasis that the USSR would leave Cuba to its fate, believing that they would then get us as easy prey at the mercy of their claws.

Children of the Caribbean, like us, should not be surprised by the contrasts. Together with the feats our people are carrying out in the midst of the culture of resistance that has been crystallizing and the willingness to continue the development programs of the national economy, our society, partly because of our neocolonial heritage and partly because of our mistakes, carries the burden of the idiots who also exist in our thousand-times heroic land.

We should not be surprised that the more (?justified) the local exponents of the counterrevolution try to seem, the more ridiculously high-flown their inaccessible language becomes. Often they are seen as becoming impatient in a precarious balance between trying to curry favor quickly and, at the same time, be cautious. Once in a while they recruit one or two people who are like escapees from an opera buffo, and one asks oneself if we can continue taking them seriously.

You should hear them at European gatherings, where they wait for the end of the special period and weep for the people whose fate they do not have the courage to share. On any stage, they fly along the ground, and the beating of their wings elicits the wisdom with which Atahualpa Yupanqui described this fauna: I fly because I do not crawl, because to crawl is ruin. I nest in a thorn tree the same as in the mountains, without hearing the silliness of those who fly like chickens.

Haiti

National Assembly Meeting Postponed to 18 Mar

FL1703130692 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Haiti's National Assembly has again postponed a meeting to consider ratifying the agreement to resolve the country's political crisis. Originally set for yesterday, the meeting has now been rescheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday [18 Mar]. The negotiated agreement calls for the appointment of a prime minister who would be in charge of creating the conditions necessary to allow ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return from exile.

Haitian officials report that there are still many uncertainties about the fate of that agreement.

Belizaire Responds to Executive's Move to Court

FL1603194292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Interview with Senate President Dejean Belizaire by unidentified correspondent in Port-au-Prince; date not given; italicized passages in French]

[Text] The provisional government has decided to take the Washington agreement before the Court of Cassation of Haiti.

In a communique published over the weekend, the government advises that, given the refusal of Senate President Dejean Belizaire and Chamber of Deputies President Alexandre Medard to carry on with the dialogue that started last Tuesday between the executive and legislative, it has decided to lodge complaints before the highest judicial authority of Haiti.

We interviewed Senator Dejean Belizaire, who said that the executive has the right to lodge complaints and that it is because he had other obligations that he did not participate in two meetings planned by the executive.

[Begin recording] [Belizaire] *Well, the executive has published a communique. I think it is absolutely its right to publish a communique and to give its opinion.*

[Correspondent Do you have reservations?

[Belizaire] *All I can say is that, personally, when I was absent, it was not something intentional; it is because it was decided tha the Senate would be represented by a committee of senators, as we had some specific things to do. The spirit, the idea that there is a conflict between the executive and the legislative should not be developed. The only thing is tha we are at a special moment in the life of the nation. The powers are looking out for themselves. It is only a democratic game that says that there be such talks between the executive and the legislative. You see? Anyway, an arrangement will have to be made at the moment of the (confirmation) of the terms of this agreement.*

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Belizaire] *Yes, (there will be) new meetings with the executive, because even when the agreement is ratified or rejected, the two powers will have to sit around a table to look at the future because the application of the agreement includes many steps that we must take together.* [end recording]

It was Monday, 9 March 1992, that the executive established a ministerial committee in charge of meeting with the Parliament on the agreement that was signed in Washington on 23 February. The first meeting took place on Tuesday, 10 March 1992, and both parties acknowledged the necessity for other meetings. [End recording]

Belizaire Discusses Agreement

FL1603225792 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Interview with Senate President Dejean Belizaire by correspondent Clarence Remos; place and date not given; italicized passage in Creole]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Senator Belizaire, who will preside over the National Assembly, says that he is optimistic. He said, quote, I do not have any apprehensions. I think that the executive and the other state powers are aware of the situation and will not obstruct the normalization of the situation, unquote.

Dejean Belizaire presented the steps that will follow the vote on the agreement in National Assembly to our correspondent Clarence Remos.

[Begin recording] [Belizaire] *I think that our talks are very advanced. There is a great willingness to reach an agreement and we are still searching for it. However, being the president of the Senate, I have some limit with the Parliament because a decision was taken within the Parliament. At the Chamber of Deputies, as well as at the Senate, there was the desire for the Assembly to be held on Monday [16 March]. Nevertheless, taking into account our determination that everything transpire agreeably, the senators understood the necessity to postpone the date for convening until Wednesday [18 March]. This will allow time for the presidents of both Chambers to make necessary arrangements with the executive to complete what has already been started as an agreement.*

[Clarence] Meanwhile, the executive is soliciting the intervention of the Supreme Court to pass judgment on the question. Will this still handicap your decision to convene the deputies and senators in National Assembly?

[Belizaire] *I do not think so. Because we have not as yet acted. It is therefore very difficult for the Supreme Court to hand down a judgment. Will it be after we act, once we ratify, then maybe at that time? We do not know.*

[Clarence] Does that mean that the Supreme Court can reject your decision?

[Belizaire] No, No! I do not read any such thing in the Constitution. I know that the Supreme Court has powers within the arbitration committee. That is when there is disagreement between the executive and the legislative. The president of the Supreme Court acts as the president of the arbitration committee just like the Senate president acts as vice president on the arbitration committee.

[Clarence] By voting on Wednesday for the agreement signed in Washington, are you also automatically voting for the dismissal of this provisional government?

[Belizaire] It is not quite exact. The disposition is that we are working on solving the resignation so that we can implement the agreement, because the agreement must be implemented.

[Clarence] Will obtaining the resignation mean that the executive will agree to resign, or will you at the Parliament take the decision as such?

[Belizaire] First, we agreed on the negotiated solution, then the agreement was signed, then ratified, so we think it is a required step. The executive is now beginning to understand that and I think that they will give the country its chance and we will have an arrangement. We will not be in a situation where we will have to act in that way.

[Clarence] Are you optimistic, Senator Belizaire?

[Belizaire] I am totally optimistic because I spoke with the executive and I saw a willingness for an arrangement without trouble and confusion in the country. We are taking the steps to give the agreement strength and vigor.

[Clarence] After the ratification of the agreement, the second step is the ratification of the prime minister-designate, Rene Theodore or another?

[Belizaire] We will then go to what is called the act of ("reinstatement"). After the act of ("reinstatement"), which

is after President Nerette's resignation, we then have the authority to introduce the name of the prime minister for the Parliament's ratification.

[Clarence] This prime minister would be Theodore or another person?

[Belizaire] For the time being, he is it because, of the two names that we submitted to him, Father Aristide chose Theodore. We will then begin the process of ratification.

[Clarence] If there is a rejection of this proposed name, will the second prime minister-designate qualify?

[Belizaire] Other consultations will be held with President Aristide for another prime minister [end recording]

Senator's Bodyguard Attacked at Parliament 15 Mar

FL1603201692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Interview with Senator Delpe by correspondent Clarence in Port-au-Prince; date not given]

[Text] An incident took place Sunday evening in the Legislative Palace where a Senate meeting was being held. Senator Delpe's bodyguard was hit on the head with the butt of a rifle by an armed individual in civilian clothes. According to witnesses, there was no altercation between the two men, who were then taken to the police station. Senator Delpe's gun, which was in the guard's possession, was returned to Senator Delpe by the police. Let us listen to Senator Delpe regarding this incident:

[Begin recording] [Delpe] There was no dispute. However, according to other information that I have, they say they will send the case for assault because the armed individual does not seem to belong to an Army unit or the Police. Will they send both before the court or only my security guard? I still do not know.

[Clarence] Does this incident worry you? Are you afraid of a personal attack on you?

[Delpe] It is not my nature to be afraid, because I am a political militant. I know what the struggle involves. However, if there is no other explanation, I can only interpret it as an act of intimidation and provocation. [end recording]

We learned that both men were due to appear before the court today.

PNDPH Urges Parliamentarians To Ratify Accord

FL1603204092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The National Progressive Democratic Party of Haiti [PNDPH] reminds everyone that the negotiated solution constitutes the best way to get the country out of the crisis it is experiencing. So PNDPH sends a patriotic call to the parliamentarians to vote for the Washington agreement.

PNDPH ends its call by telling the parliamentarians that they will evince respect for their mandate and will act for the happiness of the homeland if they ratify the agreement.

Human Rights Center Supports Ratification

FL1603204192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Lafontant Joseph Center for the Promotion of Human Rights urges the Haitian parliamentarians to ratify the Washington agreement so the people can gain some relief.

In a letter to the Haitian deputies and senators, the center says that Haiti is being weighed down by a crisis that has been turning it upside down for about six months. This crisis favors a group of people who are making money through smuggling and corruption and who would like the embargo to be continued.

In view of this intolerable situation, which must not continue, the Lafontant Joseph Center for the Promotion of Human Rights says the parliamentarians must save the country with a patriotic expression through the ratification of the 23 February 1992 agreement. The center tells the parliamentarians that if they do not ratify the agreement to get the country out of the current deadlock there will be fewer trees in the mountains, the springs will dry up, which will make life impossible, and, consequently, the people will be forced to revolt.

This reaction is signed by Secretary General Bernard Menos Celestin of the Lafontant Joseph Center for the Promotion of Human Rights.

El Salvador

Rebel Commander Sees Improved UN Role

PA1703005192 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Report by Carlos Bori Marquez]

[Text] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Commander Leonel Gonzalez stated the visit by Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, to El Salvador last week was positive.

Gonzalez said as a result of Goulding's visit, the role of the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] in this country will be strengthened. In evaluating this visit, Commander Gonzalez said:

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] I think UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali was seriously concerned about the problem of noncompliance with the agreements because situations that could have led the agreements to a critical point were emerging. Mr. Goulding's objective was to make proposals to resolve the situation. We believe Mr. Goulding's visit was timely because it allowed a direct meeting between us and the government, a meeting we had been requesting without success. We were concerned over the fact we had lost contact with the government. As a result of the direct meeting that took place thanks to the good offices of Mr. Goulding, communication has been established. I think this is a first positive step. Another positive step should be taken in the direction of solving the land-problem issue, which in principle, we could say, has been resolved. This solution consists of producing clear records to accelerate the land-granting process and to establish, with the good offices of the United Nations, a deadline for establishing land ownership in the conflict area. This deadline could be on the 16th or the 26th [no month given].

The government has committed itself to suspending evictions and we have committed ourselves to suspending the deployment of peasants to the conflict areas. We have also brought attention to the security corps problem and to the cease-fire problem—neither of the two sides have withdrawn to their assigned areas. The Army has not withdrawn to its 50 assigned areas.

We have also called attention to the security problem of the FMLN leaders. These are general points. This was considered by Mr. Goulding and based on this meeting the solution publicly announced by Mr. Goulding in his communique was reached.

[Unidentified reporter] Will there be compliance with the agreements on the National Guard and the Treasury Police?

[Gonzalez] This is a commitment acquired by the government and by ONUSAL. The impression is that in this aspect, there has not been compliance with the agreements and the National Guard and the Treasury Police are being dismissed as security corps but their members are joining the Army and, therefore, they must be concentrated in the 50 sites assigned to the Army. We hope there will be compliance with this.

[Reporter] What will be the impact of the visit by Mr. Marrack Goulding?

[Gonzalez] I believe ONUSAL has been strengthened by this visit because both the government and the FMLN have given it all their support so it plays a more active role. In the framework of the visit by Mr. Goulding, I think ONUSAL is in a better position to verify compliance with the agreements.

I think it has been made clear ONUSAL has to strengthen its work on the political aspect of the agreement. We feel ONUSAL had centered its attention on the verification of the cease-fire and the political aspect was neglected. As a result of this meeting, however, it has been made clear ONUSAL has to follow the political aspects of the agreements more closely. [end recording]

FMLN Wants Rebels Tried in El Salvador

PA1703033292 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] will turn over the two men involved in the murder of two U.S. advisers. In an effort to contribute to the reconciliation process, on 13 March the FMLN announced that on 16 March it would turn over the combatants identified as Profirio and Dominguez, accused of murdering two U.S. advisers on 2 January 1991, when they downed their helicopter. The FMLN claims the climate of detente in the nation demands adherence to the legal framework that ensued from the Salvadoran people's negotiation. Dominguez, as well as Profirio, decided to surrender to the judicial system to be tried in Chinameca, as the incident took place in Lolotique, San Miguel Department.

At the beginning, the FMLN voiced its fear of turning over the accused rebels and held international consultations on this issue. At the end, however, it sent a letter to Justice Minister Rene Hernandez Valiente expressing their willingness, once the cease-fire had been signed, for the accused to be tried here in the country. Nevertheless, the United States quickly reacted and insisted that those responsible for the murder of the two advisers should be brought before the U.S. legal system for violation of U.S. laws.

According to statements by Richard Boucher from the U.S. State Department, the steps taken by the FMLN regarding the murder of David Picket and Ernest Dawson do not guarantee that the persons responsible for this crime will be punished. The United States has urged the FMLN to take one more step and to cooperate

immediately and totally with the U.S. and Salvadoran authorities in the legal process against the accused.

There are many aspects to comment on about this regrettable case that took place when the guerrilla-warfare advisers were overflying an area of conflict. In the first place, the FMLN recognizes that with the judicial reforms, the Salvadoran system should now be considered trustworthy. In the second place, it leaves it up to the courts to decide if the accused are guilty. In the third place, the FMLN stresses its decision that impunity must no longer prevail in El Salvador. The Catholic Church, however, has already rejected that plan. We will have to wait and see the attitude of the U.S. investigators, whose actions were lacking in the Jesuit case when they questioned Lucia Cerna in Miami, the only eyewitness in that case. The Salvadoran justice system now has a new challenge to make justice prevail.

FMLN Communique Condemns Murder of Worker

PA1603194592 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in San Salvador on 14 March]

[Text] 1. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] strongly condemns the kidnapping and murder of worker Jorge Alberto Martinez, a 28-year-old member of the Committee of Dismissed and Unemployed Workers of El Salvador [CODYDES], by heavily armed individuals who have been identified as members of the National Police. Mr. Martinez was kidnapped at 1930 on 13 March in the Morazan neighborhood in Soyapango, San Salvador Department. His body, which had several bullet wounds, was found on 14 March in the vicinity of the neighborhood.

2. This new murder confirms that groups within the Armed Forces and government want to promote a campaign of selective crimes with the purpose of terrorizing Salvadorans. They want to generate an atmosphere that will hinder the implementation of the agreements reached following the negotiations, specifically the elimination of the National Guard, Treasury Police, Civil Defense groups, and the nefarious intelligence corps of the Armed Forces and the Alfredo Cristiani administration.

3. We consider this new action of destabilization to be a serious provocation and a mockery of the Salvadoran civilian society. The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, and the visit of Marrack Goulding—UN under secretary general for peace operations—as well as the efforts of the international community to achieve reconciliation and peace in El Salvador.

4. We condemn this despicable and treacherous murder and we demand that Alfredo Cristiani and General Rene Emilio Ponce immediately order a thorough investigation, publicly clarify this new murder, and immediately stop the campaign implemented by its security forces and Army against the peace process.

5. We warn the enemies of peace in El Salvador that we Salvadorans are determined to defend the peace agreements and ensure they are respected. We will also wage a strong struggle so that the will of the vast majority will prevail in our country.

We call on all the people to repudiate this new crime and prepare to wage a true battle for peace so that the government and the Armed Forces will comply with the agreements. Issued in San Salvador on 14 March 1992.

Noncompliance With Peace Agreements Charged

PA1603225992 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Despite the thick smoke barrier of ill fate surrounding the new peace process, the Salvadoran Government says all is going well. They say the peace process is not in a state of crisis. One would then have to ask the following question: Why did Marrack Goulding, the UN under secretary general, extend his visit to our country 24 hours?

The answer is quite simple. There are serious cases of noncompliance with the peace agreements by the government. This worried Mr. Goulding so much he extended his visit to the country to propose solutions to this problem. This concern became evident when Mr. Goulding left a meeting with the president [words indistinct] clearly angry and without saying good-bye to Mr. Cristiani.

This noncompliance can be seen in many forms. Initially, the government launched an intensive psychological campaign—along with murders such as that of the guard of (seaces) and others—trying to instill fear and distrust among the people toward the peace process, and tried to make them think there was no need to continue the struggle to fulfill the accords. As part of this plan to obstruct the compliance of the peace agreements, whose objective was to force the renegotiation of what has already been signed and sealed, they have now shifted from psychological warfare to specific actions. This means they have changed to murders, repression, and evictions, and have even gone as far as attacking the church, with the seizure of Jesuit priest Steven Kelly in Usulutan.

Regarding the land evictions, which have worsened during the last few weeks, it must be stated that the government is not complying with the agreements on the subject of land tenure. In doing so, it has given the problem a political tone. This makes it more difficult to find a solution, as this is not a political problem, but a social one. This means it is a problem of survival, of how to keep the land, to work it and make it produce, and have something to eat. In view of this, it is unacceptable

to have the people believe it is the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] who is encouraging the land occupations. Also as part of this plan, the government has tried to make national and international public opinion believe it has disbanded the National Guard and the Treasury Police, when there has been a change that changes nothing. These criminal forces continue to exist. They occupy the same installations, with the same structures, and the same rifles. They just bear another name and wear a different uniform.

The government is exerting heavy pressure on international organizations to prevent aid of any kind from reaching the FMLN. We must also point out the government has not released all of our companeros who are now political prisoners. The national economic and social agreement forum has not yet been formed and the private business sector has refused to participate, thus disclaiming the letter and spirit of the peace agreements.

For the government to say that all is well, given this negative outlook jeopardizing the peace process, can only be interpreted as an attempt to hide its stubbornness. Our people, however, are aware of the problem and therefore, we are sure the extreme right wing will not be permitted to fulfill its dreams of destroying the foundations which we have set to build a democratic, stable, and lasting model for our society.

Guatemala

President Says Government 'Has Won' Over URNG

PA1703023092 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 14 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias announced his government has won the war against the rebels at the military and international level and the struggle for the people's heart. He added that the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] is a group of terrorists that destroys structures vital to the country's development.

In a ceremony to inaugurate the Friendship Bridge over the Coyolate River—the structure was destroyed by rebels in December 1989—President Serrano Elias severely criticized the URNG and its acts of sabotage.

He said the URNG lacks the willingness to issue peace proposals and its leaders are inept people who have become terrorists that deserve no respect.

The president added: The inauguration of this bridge is a symbol of what has taken place in the country for 30 years. The Guatemalan people strive to build what the country needs to live, while another group stubbornly destroys what has cost so much. Serrano recalled that a month ago he demanded that the URNG present its peace proposals, but the rebels "have yet to say what they want, thus proving that they do not have the slightest will to achieve peace; and that is why the people do not want them."

Nevertheless, he added, the government has urged them to put down their weapons and participate in politics with their own platform. Instead, they have taken this as a sign of weakness, which is not so, he said.

Serrano emphasized his willingness to continue the dialogue, without giving in an inch in the struggle to defend the Guatemalan people's liberty and dignity.

Serrano Elias said: We have won the conflict, yet we give them the chance to state their position. It seems they do not want to accept the proposal or answer our challenge—to hold an uninterrupted meeting between the two delegations so they may establish the groundwork for a peace agreement.

The president added: We do not want violence and we will never repress ideas. The URNG may come to Guatemala because it has been given the opportunity to develop its political platform. Terrorist actions are reprehensible and punishable—and we reject them. Guatemala will survive, despite the efforts exerted by destabilizing, subversive, and terrorist groups to obstruct our development because the people are determined to carry out reconstruction.

Nicaragua

PLI Communique Criticizes Economic Policy

PA1603200192 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Communique issued by the Independent Liberal Party, PLI, in Managua on 14 March—read by party leader Joaquin Absalom Pastora]

[Text] The Independent Liberal Party [PLI]: After analyzing the national crisis that the Nicaraguan people are suffering, the National Board of Directors of the PLI, gathered at an ordinary meeting on 14 March, denounce and alert:

1. After the first two years of government, it can be appreciated that the economic policy implemented by the executive branch, far from meeting the desired success, has submerged the Nicaraguan people into alarming and dangerous levels of poverty. The high cost of living, coupled with the 56.5- percent unemployment rate, reveals the failure of the economic policy of the current administration. Despite the reforms made to the Investment Law of 1987, it has been confirmed that uncertainty prevails among foreign and domestic businessmen.

If in fact there is a variety of products and items available at the commercial outlets, these products, because of their price, cannot be bought by most of the population. It should be pointed out that these products are made abroad, which confirms the lack of adequate policy to benefit Nicaraguan industrialists and producers. It is obvious that an economy supported by a false facade of prosperity with a fictitious parity of the

cordoba with the dollar exists in Nicaragua. This is due to a plan by the president to lie to the international community about the real situation of the country so as to obtain loans and donations to benefit a small group of friends and relatives.

The PLI denounces the abandonment of farmers, cattlemen, industrialists, businessmen, professionals, workers, peasants, and young men and women, the only people capable of getting the country back on its feet.

2. As opposed to what has been reported in the government media, political instability continues to create uncertainty at all levels of society. The lack of security and guarantees for the citizenry leads to a dangerous situation of general discontent. This irregular situation, coupled with the government's inability to solve problems, motivates the party that lost the last elections, using the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], its armed branch, to establish conditions of chaos and anarchy in the areas affected by the civil war.

3. The PLI views with concern the existence of marked complicity by the authors and signatories of the transition protocol to create the conditions in Nicaragua, through takeovers and rebellions, that will justify a state of emergency and the need for a strongman to reestablish calm and normalcy with totalitarian and military measures.

In conclusion, the PLI asks that the Nicaraguan people and the democratic international community demand from the current government, in a civil manner, the fulfillment of the promises contained in the UNO [National Opposition Union] government program made to the Nicaraguan people.

[issued] Managua, 14 March 1992

[signed] National Board of Directors of the PLI

Lacayo, Opposition on Solutions to Problems

PA1703032892 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Mar 92 pp 1,12

[Report by Emilio Zambrana]

[Text] On 13 March, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo urged the country's public, social, and economic sectors to hold a "truce" that will lead to the drafting of a national program capable of consolidating national democracy.

In his pronouncement, Lacayo indirectly criticized political leaders who "look elsewhere for solutions."

Referring to National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar, Lacayo accused him of looking for solutions to national problems by "meeting with U.S. generals" to profit politically, "while he is incapable of meeting with our soldiers." Lacayo made these statements after indicating that the national program has to be designed by Nicaraguans.

During the forum "The Possible Nicaragua," inaugurated on 13 March and sponsored by the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua and the Fiedrich Ebert Foundation, Lacayo stated that he was optimistic despite the acute problems that are afflicting Nicaraguan society.

The absence of the UNO [National Opposition Union] and the FSLN's [Sandinist National Liberation Front] principal political leaders was evident during the 13 March forum. This absence was interpreted as being a product of the crisis that is affecting both of those national political sectors.

Criticizing the mechanisms used by Sandinist leaders and the National Workers Front—mechanisms that have a negative repercussion on the search for the country's stability—Lacayo indicated that those persons want to look for relief "through the drug of a new hyperinflation."

Lacayo stressed that the nation's present political environment could permit the development of a national program that would include all sectors, but that this would be possible only if partisan positions were abandoned.

Lacayo talked about uniting in a national campaign with the purpose of finding solutions to the different problems afflicting Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar focused his presentation on the urgency of constitutional reforms as a "sine qua non" condition for the development of a national program. Cesar was backed by UNO politicians during parts of his presentation.

Cesar argued that a national debate is the mechanism that should be used in looking for consensual solutions to the country's problems.

According to Cesar, there have been no substantial changes in the area of democracy even though it has been two years since Violeta Chamorro's government took office. He noted that repeating "empty rhetoric" will not solve the country's problems.

Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the Sandinist leadership, said that there is no need to fear national commitments. In his presentation he called for a "social consensus." This was interpreted as a disagreement with his fellow party member, Daniel Ortega, who has been the main promoter of a "social explosion."

Ramirez stated that the adjustment program the government is promoting should be aimed at strengthening agricultural production to benefit the peasants, and argued that the focal point of the aforementioned adjustment program should be directed toward that sector.

Ramirez also announced that FSLN directors will hold a meeting with the government's economic cabinet on 13 March.

According to participants, the forum was not able to draw the desired audience, nor achieve the results that its organizers had desired. Additionally, the discussions that took place at the forum of 13 March were not able to satisfy those persons present because of the polarization in the speeches of those who participated in the forum.

* FSLN Strength in Departments Described

92CA0103A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Feb 92 pp 1, 6

[Article by Roberto Larios]

[Text] The departmental leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) hope that the internal election process that has begun all over the county will help to lift the party out of the listlessness and apathy in which most of its members feel it is mired.

Under the bylaws approved at the congress, last Saturday in Rio San Juan the FSLN began electing local leadership bodies through the democratic method of the secret ballot.

According to official information from the Departmental Leadership Committees, however, around 60 percent of party members (an estimated 50,000) have no organized involvement. Most do not attend the assemblies, meetings, or rallies that are called.

The situation is pathetic in Managua. The District Committees are almost nonoperational, and barely 10 percent of the members meet in their Rank and File Assemblies. "What we have is a battle for power that does not exist, for fictitious administrative authority," said Commander Dora Maria Tellez, the political secretary of the Departmental Committee.

She was of the opinion that Sandinism may regroup during this period around social movements rather than through the party's current organized structures.

The Other Side of the Coin

The situation is quite different in the FSLN Departmental Committees in the northern and central sections of the country, where the dimension of the political and social conflict has forced Sandinists to regroup in order to defend themselves and battle for their right to the land.

In Chontales, for example, the Front has managed to keep almost 70 percent of its membership active, with ups and downs, and almost half of them are women. In Matagalpa and Jinotega the FSLN has played a fundamental role in disarming the "recompas" [former Sandinist People's Army soldiers who have taken up arms].

The municipalities located in areas of conflict are the ones that have best maintained unity, teamwork, and stable operations. This does not mean that intense internal debate is not going on in these departments.

"There are serious concerns about the role of the FSLN during this stage, about relations with the United States, about the proposal to join the Socialist International, about the role of the Sandinist Assembly, and about making good on Congress' pronouncements," said Jose Gonzalez, the Front's departmental secretary in Matagalpa.

The situation in Leon is quite similar to that in Managua. The listlessness of the membership is compounded by another problem: Their departmental secretary, Omar Cabezas, is about to die "of (political) starvation," in his own words, overwhelmed as he is by the burden of being a head of household, president of "Los Pipitos," etc.

"There is a stereotype of leadership that has to be shattered," Omar Cabezas remarked.

The departmental elections are being held at every level, from municipal assemblies to political secretaries and departmental treasurers. The Managua Electoral Committee hopes to elect representatives of 623 rank-and-file units and to hold 13 district assemblies and as many others to elect the Municipal Committee and the Departmental Assembly.

To emerge from the crisis, however, even the organizational workings that the bylaws stipulate need to be made more flexible, remarked Commander Tellez. In her judgment, the District Committees must be eliminated in the cities and preserved in the countryside, where they have indeed worked.

The FSLN membership has shown less enthusiasm in Managua than in the departments. There are two candidates for political secretary in the capital, Dr. Danilo Aguirre and Victor Hugo Tinoco.

Nevertheless, "wouldn't it be better to create a more flexible structure that would enable us to expand Sandinism's influence among the various social forces, rather than getting ourselves involved in innocuous elections?" the Sandinist leader asked.

Good Results

Experience has shown so far that the Front has succeeded in expanding its influence in the places where it has become involved in social movements. This is the case in Rivas, for example, where in five municipalities the union and political leadership is appropriately embodied in a single individual.

In this department "the objective of elections is to strengthen political communication between party structures and the social movement," said Sandinist leader Rodolfo Urtecho.

As far as Commander Luis Carrion, a member of the National Directorate, is concerned, the internal elections are important for the future of the country's largest political party. "They are not a panacea; they are not going to solve all our problems; but they are a major step forward."

"The elections must help to intensify Sandinism's internal debate and, above all, as a vehicle for seeking unity and harmony, to secure results that will enable us to keep Sandinism alive and active," Commander Carrion said.

Election Timetable

Department	Date
Chontales	8 February
Carazo	15 February
Masaya	21 February
Esteli	1 March
Nueva Segovia	7 March
Chinandega	9 March
Granada	11/13 March
Jinotega	14 March
Matagalpa	15 March
Leon	21/22 March
Managua	29 March

The exact date in the case of Boaco, the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic, and Madriz, among others, is not known.

Argentina

Menem Calls U.S. Ambassador 'Good Friend'

PY1603170092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1114 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (NA)—President Carlos Menem has denied any encroachment on Argentine Government decisions by U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman. Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella is scheduled to meet with the U.S. diplomat today to mitigate differences between the two countries.

The controversy with the U.S. Government over security at Ezeiza Airport took an unexpected turn following President Menem's statement disavowing Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez's remarks to a morning newspaper. Just as Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo did a few days ago, Menem stated that Todman "is a good friend of Argentina who is conscientiously discharging his mission here."

In remarks to NA by telephone, Gonzalez minimized the language of his interview and noted: "At no time did I say that there has been any encroachment" on Argentine Government decisions by Todman.

Asked about Todman's alleged interference in the controversy over security at Ezeiza Airport, Menem said: "Ambassador Todman is a friend of Argentina who is conscientiously discharging his mission. We should not involve him in these problems."

Upon his arrival at the Argentine Polo Club field to watch the final game of a South American polo tournament, Menem used laudatory words similar to the ones used by Cavallo a few weeks ago to refer to Todman.

Asked about Gonzalez's remarks to the morning newspaper PAGINA 12, Menem said: "Absolutely not. We never would have tolerated anything like that."

In his remarks to NA, Gonzalez said that in his interview, "I did not say there has been any encroachment. Speaking in the subjunctive, I said: 'If there were any encroachment.'"

The defense minister also reported that "an official request will be made to have a commission of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)," which is subordinate to the U.S. secretary of transportation, come to Argentina "to evaluate safety and control elements" at the airport. The evaluating commission will be asked to conduct a new "routine" inspection of Ezeiza Airport following a 13 March FAA report that reported loopholes in boarding procedures that would jeopardize the prevention of terrorist attacks.

In his PAGINA 12 interview, Gonzalez was quoted as making the following remarks about Todman's participation in Argentine domestic political activities:

"In any negotiation, he who gives up more than what is necessary can be blamed for any encroachment by the other side. We cannot blame the negotiator—in this case Todman—for certain actions he was permitted to take by his counterparts."

Argentine-U.S. relations have not been marred by this type of conflict since January 1991 when the Swiftgate case broke out. Yesterday, President Menem described the U.S. report on security at Ezeiza as "fully responding to political motives and a blatant lie."

The report noted that security at Ezeiza has been "seriously jeopardized." Observers consider this to be another way of pressuring Argentine officials to give in on the Edcadassa [South Atlantic Air Cargo Enterprise, Inc.] case and to deregulate loading and unloading services at Ezeiza Airport.

When Gonzalez said "he who gives up more than what is necessary can be blamed for encroachment by the other side," he was indirectly referring to Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, who 15 days ago publicly criticized Gonzalez on the Edcadassa case.

President Menem Warns Striking Railroad Workers

PY1603190192 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta at Government House]

[Excerpt] President Carlos Menem opened a Swedish-Argentine scientific cooperation symposium at the Plaza Hotel this morning. At the end of the opening ceremony, the president emphasized that if railway workers continue with their coercive measures on the Roca railroad line, the government will adopt measures that may include dismissals. The president said:

[Begin recording] We will order dismissals and any other measures that may be necessary. The public services in a serious and responsible country like ours cannot be the target of extortion and blackmail by people who do not yet understand that past attitudes by some railway labor groups are now over. These groups have subjected the people to a really deplorable situation.

This is particularly true for workers. Some leaders—unlike other workers in that they are employed by public enterprises—are making it difficult for those who work every day to feed their families through the withdrawal of these services. It is a crime and it is being dealt with under the Penal Code. We are inflexible. We will cancel work contracts, order dismissals, and take penal and civil action against those responsible. [end recording]

The president refused to answer if the Roca railroad line was likely to be closed. However, he questioned why we should keep it open if services are not maintained. [passage omitted]

Manzano on Constitutional Reform, Drug Issues

PY1603225492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1117 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Mendoza, 15 Mar (TELAM)—Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano said today that the Justicialist Party "has been advocating reforms since 1949." Therefore, he said, Peronism is only confirming its position by supporting constitutional reform because "it has always advocated that a government leader should be allowed to be become a candidate again, and this is not its position just because of Menem."

In a conversation with radio station LV 10 of Cuyo, Manzano recalled that Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz "became a governor again because Peronism opened the door to reelection for him. Horacio Masaccessi also became Rio Negro governor again because Peronism opened the door to reelection for him." [passage omitted]

Manzano also said during the radio interview that in Argentina "money cannot be laundered through the bank circuit because transactions of more than $10,000 attract the attention of financial officials, who check them." Manzano said, in this regard, that Argentina "is acting like the best (financial) centers of the world, and it has the recognition of the officials of different countries."

He also confirmed that the Southern Cone interior ministers will meet in Buenos Aires on 30 March to discuss, as the main issue, drug trafficking and money laundering in order to coordinate joint actions in the entire region. He added that the Spanish interior minister will arrive on the same date to sign an agreement with President Carlos Menem that is also related to the struggle against drug trafficking. He said that this shows that Argentina "is considered to be a country that is carrying out an all-out effort against this crime."

Manzano also said that the struggle against drug trafficking "is a long-term struggle against very powerful organizations that have incalculable amounts of money and a great ability to adjust to different circumstances. Therefore, this will represent many years of struggle."

Manzano indicated that Argentina has demonstrated that "the institutions are working. In very few countries, can you find a situation where high-ranking officials or former relatives of the president who are considered suspects could be subject to court action, even though this does not mean that they are guilty, only that nothing was done to avoid a court action." [passage omitted]

Importance of 'Agroindustrial Complex' Analyzed

PY1603002092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 92 p 6

[By Eduardo N. de Zavalia Jr. from the "Farming Comments" column]

[Text]

Agriculture: Mainstay of Our Foreign Trade

Farming is one of the mainstays of competitiveness in Argentina's economy. The variety and aptitude of climates and topographies, combined with a particular rural business criterion, put our country in a good position to produce food and other agriculture-derived goods.

Various activities have developed around farming to provide it with inputs and services and transform and market its products; in the aggregate they constitute Argentina's most important economic sector, representing more than 35 percent of gross domestic product.

The importance of this "agroindustrial complex" (AC) can be appreciated most clearly in its very high historical participation in our exports, averaging about 75 percent in the last two decades.

For many years (succeeding administrations) tried fruitlessly to modify this foreign trade structure by transferring resources from agriculture to other sectors (retentions for subsidies). These policies were based either on national development strategy (it was believed that the farming sector was not very dynamic), or on the adverse impact of protectionist policies on the world food market.

The present economic programme has put aside those dirigiste theories and has entrusted Argentine development to the sectors best able to compete abroad, letting the markets assign resources.

In this sense, the agroindustrial complex will have a leading role in the coming years as the main base of our foreign trade. Argentina's economic growth should depend on increasing participation in international markets, looking for and opening up new markets for our products.

Progress in the area of international trade theory leans towards a potentialization of the competitive importance of complex or superior factors, such as innovative capacity and education. Such is the case of The Competitive Advantages of Nations, the latest book by Michael Porter, who recently was in Argentina. However, the author does not fail to point out the importance, particularly in the case of food, of having natural advantages upon which to sustain and develop superior competitive advantages.

Argentine exports, as statistics for recent years show, will continue to be agriculture-derived. It is good for the country that other sectors of the economy become competitive and penetrate world markets, but there is no doubt that the structure of our foreign trade will have, for its efficiency, agriculture and agroindustry as its principal component. It is important to evaluate to what extent they will be diversified, acquiring a greater degree of manufacture and in addition, seeking to stand out for their quality as a means to achieving a better price for their Argentine origin.

The latest statistics enable us to begin to appreciate some of these aspects, which will be analyzed in the following.

Table 1—Argentine Exports 1985-1991*
(million dollars)

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991(*)
Primary products	3,677	2,525	1,746	2,421	2,081	3,406	3,387
Agroindustrial products	2,596	2,687	2,826	3,943	4,018	4,676	4,743
Industrial products	1,541	1,488	1,689	2,624	3,170	3,348	2,954
Fuels and energy	566	146	87	139	296	838	831
Others	15	6	12	7	1	4	4
Total	8,395	6,052	6,360	9,134	9,566	12,352	11,919
AC/Total	74.7	76.1	71.9	69.7	63.8	66.1	68.2

(*Projection based on information for January-August 1991 period.)
Source: Argentine Rural Society.

Table 2—Structure of Agroindustrial Exports, 1985 and 1990
(million dollars)

	1985	1990	Var.
Cereals	2,262	1,374	-39.3
Food industry residues	515	1,200	133.0
Fats and oils	993	1,151	15.9
Meats	398	899	125.9
Oilseeds	735	828	12.7
Furs and hides	294	488	66.0
Fish, etc.	144	300	109.3
Others	90	211	134.4
Fruit	123	205	66.7
Processed fruit and vegetables	47	188	300.0
Fruit and vegetables	94	176	87.2
Cotton	75	164	119.7
Sugar and confectionery	34	151	344.1
Processed wools	129	126	-2.3
Milk products and eggs	16	125	691.3
Tobacco	56	95	69.6
Unwashed wool	67	94	40.3
Others	18	85	372.2
Beverages	23	66	187.0
Milling	25	65	160.0
Coffee, yerba, tea, etc.	38	50	31.6
Tannery extracts	41	38	-7.3
Honey	26	31	19.2
Dried fruit	14	21	50.0
Processed fish	5	15	200.0
Other animal products	6	10	66.7
Live animals	5	8	60.0
Total AC	6,273	8,164	30.1

Source: Argentine Rural Society

Evolution of Exports Since 1985

Table 1 shows exports composition by categories from 1985 to 1991 (figures for the latter are estimates). Exports of primary products maintained a level similar to that of 1985, showing fluctuations similar to those of total exports.

On the other hand, exports of agroindustrial and industrial products showed a steady, continuous growth, nearly duplicating their value during the seven-year period.

The agroindustrial complex in the aggregate averaged a high participation with 70 percent of the total, despite an increase in sales of industrial manufactures and fuels.

A detailed analysis of the evolution of the composition of the latter two is given in Table 2, which compares the 1985 export range with that of 1990 (the last year for which there are confirmed figures).

The classic primary exports (cereals and oilseeds) showed, in aggregate, a reduction during the period. Meanwhile, many agroindustrial or non-traditional primary areas showed significant growth (milk products and eggs, processed fruits and vegetables, sugar and confectionery, meats, food industry residues, cereal and oilseed by-products, etc.).

In 1985 cereals, oilseeds and products derived from them—oils, by-products, etc.—accounted for 71.8 percent of the exports of the agroindustrial complex, while in 1990 they represented only 55.7 percent, with an important diversification of the remaining 44.3 percent in minor categories.

1991 Exports

Information available at August 1991 (estimates for 1991 are global and not by sector), shows that the value and structure of exports last year were very similar to those of 1990.

In Table 3 a comparison of the January-August periods of 1990 and 1991 shows that the exports of the agroindustrial complex were very similar, with a participation in total exports of 70.5 percent. There are significant increases, as in fresh fruit or tobacco, and worrisome falls, as in wool (affected by conditions in international markets), milk products (a combination of distorted markets, greater consumption and reduced production) and sugar.

Table 3—Argentine Exports, January-August 1990 and 1991
(million dollars)

	1990	1991	Var
Primary products	2,625.0	2,550.2	-2.8
Oilseeds	643.6	872.2	35.5
Cereals	1,192.3	840.7	-29.5
Fruit	153.9	226.6	47.2
Cotton	131.1	155.1	18.3
Fish, etc.	173.8	123.1	-29.2
Fruit & Vegetables	107.1	120.8	12.8
Tobacco	65.3	96.8	48.2
Unwashed wool	83.1	44.3	-46.7
Honey	23.5	32.1	36.6
Others	45.6	31.8	-30.3
Live animals	5.7	6.7	17.5
Agroindustrial products	3,111.0	3,155.7	1.4
Fats & oils	892.1	869.0	-2.6
Food industry residues	787.0	798.4	1.4
Meats	534.8	544.4	1.8
Furs and hides	310.9	329.7	6.0
Processed fruit & vegetables	144.6	141.9	-1.9
Processed fish	10.7	111.6	943.0
Others	46.8	69.6	48.7

Processed wool	79.1	58.5	-26.0
Milling	36.0	52.1	44.7
Milk products and eggs	82.1	51.0	-37.9
Coffee, yerba, tea, etc.	31.0	32.9	6.1
Beverages	42.1	29.5	-29.9
Sugar & confectionery	72.1	29.0	-59.8
Tannery extracts	25.4	21.4	-15.7
Dry fruit	9.6	11.3	17.7
Other animal products	6.7	5.4	-19.4
Industrial products	2,100.8	1,853.0	-11.8
Fuels and energy	536.9	532.7	-0.8
Country total	8,373.7	8,091.6	-3.4

Source: Argentine Rural Society

Outlook for 1992

It is still too early to make a knowledgeable forecast of what could happen in 1992, in particular in a period of far-reaching structural change like we are going through at present. However, we can analyze some patterns.

The present low exchange rate casts doubt on the future of many non-traditional exports and even the traditional ones. To a certain extent some attenuating factors offset the fall in exchange parity: the notable reduction in the taxes affecting foreign trade, the de-bureaucratization of business procedures and the reduction—though insufficient—of interest rates.

If the evolution of domestic prices remains within the official guidelines, no substantial change is to be expected in the real exchange rate and it will probably tend to recuperate in the medium term. If this does not happen, the 1992 trade balance situation will become delicate, as the hoped-for increase in imports will be accompanied by a fall in exports.

Even with a more favourable hypothesis, exchange parity will be low and will oblige Argentine exporters to make a great effort.

In this context, the agroindustrial complex takes on a special importance, as it is the sector best able to maintain its sales abroad owing to its competitiveness. In this sense, the success of the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations acquires great importance, as does the evolution of regional integration projects which, with food markets more open to trade, will allow us to increase our sales without having to modify our exchange rate.

* Federal Intervention of Corrientes Analyzed

* Electoral Impasse

92SM0284A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Feb 92 p 7

[Report by Esece]

[Text] Tomorrow, Radicals and Peronists will try to bring the Corrientes Electoral College together to name the governor of the province, a matter pending since last year. The institutional crisis has the province paralyzed and resulted in a controversy that most of the country is watching without understanding precisely what is at stake

In order to explain the conflict in its simplest terms and make its fundamental points understandable to everyone, three aspects should be considered: 1) the people's will; 2) the political "oligarchy"; and 3) the shyster issue.

First of all, there is no doubt whatsoever about what the people of Corrientes want. PAL [Liberal Autonomous Pact] candidate Raul Romero Feris beat Peronist Alberto Di Filippo by 40,000 votes, while Radical Noel Breard came in a distant third.

Second, in any other province, this clear definition of the will of the electorate would have put an end to all problems, but in Corrientes the governor is elected indirectly by an Electoral College. This opened the way to the political oligarchy and the voters supporting Radical Noel Breard unexpectedly transferred their votes to Peronist Di Filippo.

This is very similar to what happened in the Federal Capital in 1989, when the Liberals supporting Maria Julia Alsogaray ended up becoming, to their displeasure, the political springboard enabling Peronist Eduardo Vaca—whom these same Liberals labeled as "crypto-Marxists," to say the very least—won his seat from Fernando de la Rua, a man much more to the liking of the Buenos Aires right.

The third aspect of the problem is the debate on the constitutional provisions of Corrientes and the nation. No matter from what angle one views it, one thing is obvious: The people of Corrientes have already spoken and by several thousand votes demonstrated whom they want for governor, however much this displeases the central Peronist government.

A bit of recent history: In 1986, elections were to be held in San Luis to choose the successor to Oraldo Britos, whose term as a senator expired that year. The Radicals had won in 1985 and for that reason, even though the provincial government was controlled by the Peronists—it belonged and still belongs to Rodriguez Saa—Radicals and Peronists were tied in the legislature that was to elect the national senator.

The situation grew tense, an uproar ensued, reporters were beaten, and Peronism resorted to the intimidating tactics of which it has been fond since time immemorial. Alfonsin refused to intervene in the province and a direct election was held based on the slogan law that made Britos the winner. Will the Menem government do the same and summon Correntinos to proclaim once again whom they want as governor?

* Political Test

92SM0284B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 92 p 7

[Article by Carlos Manuel Acuna]

[Text] The elections to be held in Corrientes within the next three months will make that district a political barometer for the country's main political factions.

On the one hand, one has the conservative Liberal Autonomous Pact (PAL), which has definite local connotations, and on the other, Peronism and Radicalism and their minor alliances, similar to what PAL received from the progressive democrats.

Completing the number is the UCD [Democratic Center Union], in the person of interventor Francisco de Durañona y Vedia, since everyone realizes that if nothing happens to alter this picture, the Corrientes elections will precede those in the capital, where the fight between Radicals and Justicialists will be a tough one.

Working behind the scenes are such figures as Senators Jose Antonio Romero Feris, brother of the PAL gubernatorial candidate, both autonomists, and Liberals Juan Antonio Aguirre Lanari and Ricardo Leconte. As a result of deliberations with Minister Jose Luis Manzano, an unusual agreement was concluded to the effect that these traditionally politically unified forces pledged to vote in the resulting Electoral College for the candidates from the groups winning the most votes. While this is nothing new, it does help strengthen the idea that there will be no changes in the objectives of this election outcome.

Electoral College

It is important to emphasize this because a last-minute interpretation came from the national spokesman for the PJ [Justicialist Party], Cesar Arias, to the effect that the new elections would be accompanied by a call for a reform of the Corrientes Constitution in order, among other things, to do away with the Electoral College system, a forum in which bargaining is always possible. Logically enough, PAL leaders categorically rejected this idea which burst on the scene more as an expression of desires and actual curiosity than a viable path for resisting the institutional political stagnation in which Corrientes is wallowing.

Arias was apparently angry over the solution found by Menem himself and perhaps failed to take into consideration other possibilities that could be played with between now and the actual holding of the election. For this reason, the Electoral College should be maintained with the thought that it could in time be extended to other provinces. Consequently, great caution must be exercised in measuring any potential constitutional reform and, as part of this whole affair, the elimination of the system of electoral colleges.

Possible Future Understandings

Indeed, while the PAL feels strong and has definite prospects of repeating and even widening its election victory, one must not rule out a possible future agreement with local Justicialists, despite the "special" Arists the problem involves. If this should occur, there would be a break in the unwritten agreement between the PJ and the Corrientes UCR [Radical Civic Union], concluded for the exclusive purpose of trying to beat the Liberal Autonomist Pact through an alliance that should be seen as the specific root of the crisis.

Furthermore, it is unusual—this is apparently the view of the Casa Rosada [Executive Mansion]—that an agreement would have been reached based solely on the circumstances of the vote for the purpose of enabling two groups as distant and different on the national scene as the Justicialists and the Radicals to take control of the provincial government and then confront one another in a divided government and with a PAL that could become a powerful, active opposition with representatives in the National Congress and an undeniable capacity for externalization.

These reflections, which have a concrete basis transcending mere speculation, mean that the elections in Corrientes take on increasing significance on the whole, in addition to the fact that elections are scheduled in the weeks ahead in the Federal Capital, where the Radicals seem to be confirming that, in the final analysis, Fernando de la Rua should be the candidate for national senator in order to prevent a collapse that will also be solved, not by the voters alone, but the metropolitan Electoral College as well.

Whatever the case, forming a backdrop to all these issues, the political atmosphere is marked by a process of anarchy that has arisen within Radicalism, one now beginning to be recognized by the leaders themselves and that could be the beginning of a disintegration not yet glimpsed by all of them, now just as bewildered as they were on that notorious 5 August, for example, when public opinion defeated them in their alliance with Cafierism by a margin of over 70 percent of the votes!

*** Interventor's Task**

92SM0284C Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] Corrientes (TELAM)—Two equally critical fronts, political and economic, must be dealt with by the interventor in Corrientes, Francisco Duranona y Vedia, in order to normalize the province's administrative, judicial, and institutional operations.

"Immediate payment of debts to government and judicial employees and the unemployed will be the first order of business of the minister of finance," according to the official, who took office Friday and who will install his staff members tomorrow.

Duranona y Vedia encountered not only a political-institutional situation in crisis, but an economic deficit as well, one affecting all of society due to a marked delay in the payment of salaries to provincial employees, totaling nearly 80,000.

The delayed payment of December wages, still not completed, meant a de facto judicial holiday in January as a result of measures taken by workers.

"I will travel to the federal capital Tuesday to finalize details and obtain funds," the interventor said.

Duranona y Vedia announced that next week will mark the beginning of a dialogue with representatives of the political parties aimed at finding a solution "as soon as possible so that Corrientes will have its elected government."

He also announced that the minister of treasury and finance will be Chaco's former minister of economy, Rafael Gonzalez, who recently occupied the post during the intervention of Tierra del Fuego. The minister of government and justice will be Jose Pigretti.

Concerning staff appointments, the names most frequently heard, in addition to that of Gonzalez, include that of Dr. Alcides Omar Soto for public health, a post he occupied at the beginning of the constitutional government in 1983, when he was active in the autonomist movement. He is now head of the Democratic Center Union.

Bolivia

Paz Views Cabinet Reshuffle, 'Social Upheaval'

PY1603193092 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora is still studying cabinet changes in a quest for the most competent people for the jobs. The president said that changes must be thought out carefully, adding that cabinet members must fulfill their duties well.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] About 10 days ago, a journalist asked me this very same question, and I answered that I was going to take some time, that I was going to talk to my ministers, and that I was going to make a few cabinet changes in order to handle this new stage of my administration, a stage that is different from the one we have gone through.

I am thinking it out. I am working on it. I am in no hurry and want to take proper care to obtain—as I said before—another good Paz Zamora cabinet team—which are known to be homogeneous, coherent teams in which ministers are not trying to trip each other up, as used to be the case with past cabinets. [end recording]

On the atmosphere of social upheaval prevailing in the country, caused by various social strata and groups demanding more funds, the president stated:

[Begin recording] [Paz] I have already explained this social upheaval business several times. I really do not know why you keep harping on this subject.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Paz] Obviously, the national budget is currently under discussion. The universities want more money. They take to the streets asking for more money; that is normal. There is, however, a limit, and the important thing is for the Bolivian people to understand that the government can only go so far, because to go beyond that limit would be sheer irresponsibility. My administration is not going to be irresponsible.

Thus, we are undergoing the normal process of discussion and analysis. As in any democracy, there are partisan interests that take advantage of such situations. I believe, however, that dialogue and understanding will lead to a decision, a decision that the government will have to make. In a few days, I will issue a decree and that will be the end of all this because the law will then be enforced. This is the way things work in a democracy. [end recording]

Paz Says U.S. Ties Show Strength, Stability

PY1603204092 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpts] President Jaime Paz Zamora attended a ceremony during which the cornerstone of the new U.S. Embassy building was laid.

The ceremony also was attended by U.S. Ambassador Charles Bower, Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde, and other U.S. officials. [passage omitted]

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] This important event marks the beginning of the construction of the U.S. Embassy in our country. I believe this shows the good level of the Bolivian-U.S. relationship and shows the confidence other countries, especially the United States, have in the Bolivia. Nobody invests $30 million, which is what this building is going to cost, in a country in bad shape. One only invests $30 million in a country that is organized and serious, that knows what it wants, a

country capable of fully, sovereignly establishing a relationship with a country as important as the United States.

Let this be a sign for the Bolivian people of the strength our economy and our stability are gaining and of the fact that, despite the normal difficulties any country may encounter, we are making progress along the correct path. [end recording]

Chile

RN Executive Board Views Municipal Elections

PY1603194192 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Report by Rosa Alcayaga]

[Text] The National Renewal Party [RN] executive board met on 14 March in Santiago, primarily to discuss the municipal election campaign, but it also revealed some new clues on the presidential election issue.

It was also said that the RN is not like a military unit, that it acknowledges the existence of various trends.

During his opening speech, RN President Andres Allamand criticized certain elements of the press that are speculating on divisions within his party. He said:

[Begin recording] The internal unity of our party is as important as the unity of our sector. We are definitely not like a military unit. We do not think exactly the same way on every point. None of our party's boards of directors can pretend to vertically impose their viewpoints. [end recording]

Four main speeches, by Andres Allamand, Sebastian Pinera, Sergio Onofre Jarpa, and Evelyn Matthei, were scheduled. This pleased everyone.

In a passionate, impromptu speech, Sergio Onofre Jarpa, presented, as usual, the hard, pro-Pinochet line, but surprised everyone by publicly praising Andres Allamand.

Jarpa's words were interpreted by some leaders as support from the natural RN leader for the current RN president, leaving Jarpa well out of any possibility to seek election next August because Allamand will have served two years in his post.

After the convention concluded, various important leaders agreed that Sebastian Pinera missed his best opportunity because his speech, which followed Allamand's speech and lasted 80 minutes, did not impress anyone. Pinera's speech, which followed strict guidelines, could serve him for a tacit nomination as a presidential hopeful.

Matthei's speech was the surprise of the day. She described it as a very self-critical discourse, full of ideas. [Begin Matthei recording, in progress] ... I have been quite critical of our past performance. My remarks at times hurt many people.

I believe that the people should get used to occasionally hearing unpleasant things. Sometimes things that hurt us are good for us. They make us grow up. This is the way I am. I am not going to change, and if this sometimes bothers people, bad luck. [laughs] [end recording]

That was Evelyn Matthei. Her speech—which received the most applause after Jarpa's speech—was described as brilliant. She was described as a new and serious candidate, as presidential hopeful, a possibility that she later denied.

Krauss, Valdes Criticize RN

PY1603224392

[Editorial Report] Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 16 March 1992 reports on the criticisms leveled by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss against the National Renewal for opposing the constitutional reforms.

Krauss says that the constitutional reform package will probably be submitted to Congress on 21 May. He adds that the National Renewal position, rejecting the constitutional reform package before it was even submitted to Congress, is not a responsible position for an opposition democratic political party.

The National Renewal believes that the constitutional reforms will distort the meaning of the municipal elections, but Krauss says that the controversy over the municipal elections has nothing to do with the basic reforms proposed by the package.

Senate President Gabriel Valdes says that the announcement by the National Renewal that it will not to support the constitutional reforms marks the beginning of an electoral campaign. Valdes believes, however, that once the constitutional reform package gets to the Senate, ways will be found to have at least some of the important reforms approved.

PSCh Leader Rebuts FRG Envoy on Honecker

PY1603205292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Senator Ricardo Nunez, the president of the Socialist Party of Chile [PSCh], has said that Erich Honecker's stay at the Chilean Embassy in Russia does not violate international law. The PSCh president argued that the right to protection is a recourse included in all the international standards of all the countries in the world. Thus, the senator rebutted the remarks made by German Ambassador to Chile Wiegand Pabsch, who stressed that the guest status of the former communist leader does not exist in international law.

[Begin Nunez recording] Concerning this case, we have said that everyone, and especially the ambassador of one of the countries involved, has a right to voice an opinion.

From our viewpoint, Mr. Honecker's situation does not violate international law. First, the right to protection—which is a right consecrated by all the international treaties of the legal body that governs international life—has been consecrated and is effective.

It is true that the right to protection has various forms. It has the form of shelter, as in the case of the 1952 Geneva Convention, and it has the form of asylum, as established by Spanish-American legal (?standards).

Nevertheless, the right to protection exists. [end recording]

Nunez also described as very complex and unprecedented the situation created by the entry of the former president of the defunct GDR to the Chilean diplomatic mission in Moscow.

Nunez explained that Honecker was the head of a state that no longer exists and that he was received by a country that, as is the case with the former Soviet Union, is also defunct.

Therefore, Nunez said, because the situation is so complex, it should be mediated by a special international court, such as the one in The Hague. [passage omitted]

Manglapus Comments on Philippine Elections

PY1603230692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus, who is making an official visit to Chile, has stated that Imelda Marcos has no chance to win the upcoming presidential election in Philippines. He said that, according to the latest opinion poll, she would get only 6 percent of the votes. [passage omitted]

[Begin Manglapus recording, in Spanish] She is now running as a candidate, but no one is taking her seriously. She has money and can gather people for the benefit of TV cameras, but the Filipino people are not for sale. [end recording]

Manglapus said that democracy in the Philippines managed to overcome seven ultraright-wing coup attempts and that it also has to face the extreme left which, he said, is being supported by Western nongovernmental organizations, NGOs.

[Begin recording] Communist rebellion still persists in my country, but it is no longer backed by its traditional communist supporters such as China, the former Soviet Union, the DPRK, or Vietnam, but, ironically, communist rebels in the Philippines are now being backed by Western Europe, by NGO's, or by Christian-oriented foundations. [end recording]

Ecuador

Borja Replies to Amazonic Municipality Demands

PA1403171192 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Report by Francisco Sanchez]

[Text] The consortium of Amazonic municipalities has made a series of demands, especially of an economic nature, to President Rodrigo Borja Ceballos. The municipalities confirm their request for full payment for all 1991 disbursements pending budgetary assignments—disbursements that were duly supported by the municipality consortium members at the time. In addition, the municipalities confirm the request made by the consortium's directorate for emergency financing of 1.62 billion sucres for projects in the 30 member municipalities and request compliance of the agreements signed with the government ministry to complete unfinished projects in the various cantons.

Meanwhile, the president complained about the country's critical situation caused by the drop in oil prices:

[Begin Borja recording] We are faced with very serious economic difficulties for various reasons, but basically due to the well-known fact that the international market price of oil has dropped drastically during my term in office. Having budgeted income based on $17 a barrel, we have governed with oil earning $9 a barrel during certain periods. The current price is about $14 a barrel. This represents a drop in state revenues that naturally forces us to limit our ambitious economic development plans. It also limits our plans to meet all of our country's sectors demands for funds from the government to operate efficiently.

The Finance and Public Ministry estimates we are failing to earn—I would say we are losing—20 billion sucres of income every month because of the drop in international oil prices. This means a very serious situation for us, which forces us to adjust public spending to true income levels. The government has the best of intentions, proved by deeds, to attend to all of the country's decentralized entities—not only those in the Amazon, but throughout the country. We also hope that all section administrators all over Ecuador have the necessary understanding regarding these limitations that we have had to implement on public spending due to the drop in oil prices.

I said at a news conference the other day that I had mixed feelings near the end of my presidential term. I feel a great satisfaction for the goals attained, for the work accomplished, especially in the social field. [end recording]

Paraguay

Corps Commander Discusses Party Affiliations

PY1403152492 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 11 Mar 92 pp 10-11

[Interview with Acting 1st Corps Commander General Lino Cesar Oviedo by an unidentified NOTICIAS reporter; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [NOTICIAS] There is an ongoing debate concerning the Armed Forces issue. How do you view this?

[Oviedo] I think the president of the Republic has been very clear on this matter. I shall refer to his remarks. The Army commander has made a similar statement. We are a disciplined, institutionalized force, and we are always going to follow the ideas of our superiors.

[NOTICIAS] But some of those remarks seem to indicate that the Armed Forces will continue to be loyal to the Colorado Party. Is that your opinion?

[Oviedo] What the commander in chief said is very clear: There are many Colorado Party members within the Armed Forces who will continue as members to the end of their days. This does not mean that the Armed Forces are not of the nation. I do not see any contradiction. In Germany, the military officers have their political party. If not, how would one make use of the universal right to vote? They will have to do it through a political party. So, if someone within the Armed Forces is affiliated with the Colorado Party, he will vote for the Colorado Party. No one is going to take away that right.

[NOTICIAS] And what if one belongs to the Liberal Party?

[Oviedo] Whoever belongs to the Liberal Party will vote for the Liberal Party, and whoever belongs to the Febrerista Party will vote for that party. He who belongs to the National Agreement [Acuerdo Nacional] will vote for the National Agreement. Otherwise, he will not be able to exercise the right to vote. I am giving you an example of one of those Western European countries. I think I have categorically answered your question. We cannot be deaf, dumb, or blind. How are we going to make use of our right to follow one political party? But we respect the electoral law. We are not going to the party precincts to meet with politicians, or to make hurrahs, or to wear red T-shirts for the campaign.

But if someone tries to forbid us, with a constitutional article, from belonging to a club or a party, that will be a contradiction to democracy. [passage omitted]

[Oviedo] Did you know that the only Armed Forces in the world that fought for democracy are the Parguayan Armed Forces? Isn't that enough to say that we are the pillars of democracy?

[NOTICIAS] Yes, general. You are the pillars of democracy. The process is in progress, democracy is functioning, and you are supporting it.

[Oviedo] We respect the people's will. Did you see the results of the municipal elections?

[NOTICIAS] I think they are a clear sign.

[Oviedo] Then what other examples do you want? To the extent that these examples emerge, you will learn about them. The problem is that there are people with selfish, sectarian, and dissociating interests who want to separate Paraguayan society to follow their ideas, opinions, and thoughts. Citizens must have the freedom to choose their own fate, their future, club, or party.

[NOTICIAS] Although the political activity may be against the law?

[Oviedo] That is quite another thing if one is carrying out an activity against the law. But in 1993, you will not be able to prevent a member of the Liberal Party, Colorado Party, Febrerista Party, or someone who likes the National Agreement, from voting. You will not be able to prevent them from voting, not even with 100 articles of the national constitution, because the vote is secret. And voting is a universal right, which means that it is a right throughout the entire democratic world.

[NOTICIAS] Do you mean that a military officer on active duty must fulfill his constitutional right to cast a secret vote, and to vote for whomever he wishes?

[Oviedo] Of course. How can you take away that right from him? No constitution in the world takes away that right. No one can prevent a military officer from voting. Moreover, the vote is secret. However, concerning the compulsory affiliation to a party to join the mil ary force or to enter the military college, well, in that case, I agree with those who want to forbid it.

Uruguay

Lacalle Views Internal Situation, Integration

PY1603225692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1656 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Article by Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Mar (EFE)—President Luis Alberto Lacalle today dedicated the new congressional period and made an assessment of his government. He expressed optimism over the integration process in the Southern Cone and pessimism over the internal situation, attacking the state of the country's international competitiveness.

Lacalle's popularity has dropped to its lowest level since he assumed the Presidency on 1 March 1990, according to two important polling companies. In his 57-minute speech, he stressed the importance of the approval of the Asuncion Treaty, which created the Common Market of

the South (Mercosur), and the upcoming signing of another agreement involving the Parana, Paraguay, and Uruguay Rivers.

He also stressed the importance of plans to construct a bridge between the Uruguayan city of Colonia and Buenos Aires on the River Plata, the call for bids for the construction of a gas pipeline from Argentina, the expansion of trade agreements, and integration with Brazil.

He expressed satisfaction over the full respect for human rights in Uruguay and the improvement in public security. Although he did not give many details, he said that annual prosecutions have increased by 23 percent and that the prison population has increased by 30 percent.

Lacalle governs by a margin of only 13 percent of the population, according to a poll by the U.S. Gallup Company, and by 14 percent according to the local Equipos Consultores company. He warned lawmakers of the lack of credibility in political activity and asked them to approve fundamental laws that will lead to a new state structure.

Lacalle also stressed the importance of the result of a public opinion poll that revealed that 38 percent of the country's youth "do not feel represented by anyone," by no political party or politician.

He added that many of the lawmakers who make up the National Congress "will be in the government tomorrow," and urged them to look for "points of agreement" instead of issues "that divide."

Lacalle does not have a majority in Congress since the reduction a month ago of the government coalition with the Colorado Party, the main opposition party. He called upon congressmen to be responsible and asked them to approve the social security law that will make the country internationally more competitive.

He said that every hike in public employees' salaries also affects payments to more than 860,000 retirees who are constitutionally linked to average salaries.

Uruguay has a labor force of 1,200,000, of which 370,000 are within the state bureaucratic system and 650,000 are retired. He added that the cost of social security has tripled over the past two years and now amounts to more than $1.4 billion.

The president admitted that the tax burden is too heavy. It prevents the accumulation of capital and investment, thus making labor very expensive and excessively reducing consumption. He said that this situation is very serious, adding that speedy approval of the laws the government has proposed to restructure social security is "vital for the country's true economic health."

"We cannot join Mercosur with our current labor and energy costs," Lacalle said.

Fuel prices in Uruguay are more expensive than those in the other member countries of Mercosur—Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay—because of the tax burden, which represents 60 percent of the price. Lacalle's government this year plans a second fiscal adjustment to reduce the deficit, which in 1989 was 7 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and in 1991 dropped to 1.4 percent.

The president stated today that the adjustments "are steps toward an economic reorganization" and, as such, cannot be permanent.

Regarding the achievements of his government, Lacalle stressed the reduction of the unemployment rate from 9.5 percent to 8.9 percent, an increase in the GDP of 4.4 percent, and a $683 million reduction of the net foreign debt.

He did not refer, however, to the high inflation rate of 81.4 percent annually, to the increase in the gross foreign debt from $6.994 to $7.401 billion in the two years of his government, or to the trade deficit, with imports totalling $1.622 billion and exports totalling $1.5962 billion.

Government Announces 15 Percent Cut in Spending

PY1403002092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1942 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Article by Jose Figueroa]

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Mar (EFE)—The Uruguayan Government today formalized a package of adjustment measures that was announced two weeks ago by Economy and Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas, reducing spending in the central administration by 15 percent and abolishing 75 percent of vacant positions for public workers.

The measures were approved at a meeting attended by President Luis Alberto Lacalle; Eduardo Ache, industry and energy minister; Alvaro Ramos, livestock, agriculture, and fishing minister; Carlos Cat, Planning and Budget Office director; and Presidential Secretary Pablo Garcia Pintos.

The so-called second fiscal adjustment ordered by Lacalle since he took power on 1 March 1990 includes 15 percent spending cuts, in constant values, in central administration spending, special limitations and controls on spending for supplies provided by other state agencies, and the prior approval of the economy and finance minister for any supplementary spending.

Official spokesmen said the economic team also decided that the next budget, which the government will soon send to Congress, will increase the percentage of abolished vacant public positions to 75 percent. It was also decided to distribute 50 percent of any additional savings among workers.

Another measure that was approved provides for a reduction and redistribution of ministry officials and a reduction in the number of political posts in government. Moreover, the Uruguayan economic team

announced an incentive for public servants who are declared redundant to retire. In some cases, this incentive will amount to up to $10,000, based on the post and salary earned by each public servant.

In addition to these measures, the government will submit a draft tax bill to Congress next week. This government initiative seeks to regulate taxes on, among others, the transfer of property due to death and to exempt the payment of the value-added tax on the transfer of assets as a result of the merger or division of enterprises.

These measures seek to back President Alberto Lacalle's neo-liberal policy, designed to reduce the size of the state and to privatize several state-owned enterprises, among them Antel [National Telecommunications Administration], PLUNA [Uruguayan National Airlines], the Gas Company, some Montevideo port services, and others.

To be able to carry out the aforementioned privatizations, after over a year of negotiations, the government obtained the necessary votes in Congress to approve a "law on public enterprises," which has been rejected by the leftist sector and workers, who have demanded a plebiscite in an attempt to abrogate the law.

In the past few months, the Uruguayan president, leader of the "Herreraist" sector of the center-right National or "Blanco" Party, has been the target of harsh criticism over the country's economic situation, even from within his own party, and of pressure that prompted the recent replacement of the economy and finance minister.

Venezuela

AD Confirms Trust in Perez Administration

PA1703005792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0002 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Report by Sayda Pereira]

[Text] Luis Emilio Rondon, Democratic Action [AD] assistant secretary general, announced that the political organization's National Executive Council [CEN] has categorically confirmed its trust in President Carlos Andres Perez and his administration.

An official AD communique was read following a special nine-hour party and government meeting at La Casona presidential house. AD confirmed that it supports President Perez and asserted that he is the only person capable of handling the situation currently prevailing in the country, adding that he was chosen by the people.

Party spokesman Luis Emilio Rondon also emphasized that the president is willing to carry out the rectification process announced when he addressed the Congress. Regarding the possibility that the ruling party might suggest to President Perez a reduction in the constitutional term, the CEN confirmed that it wants the president to remain in his post.

[Begin Rondon recording] The CEN confirms its belief that the president of the Republic was elected for a five-year term that concludes in 1994. Consequently, we confirm our belief that the president of the Republic should remain in office throughout the term—for which he was elected by the people in a sovereign, universal, direct, and secret way—and AD will support him. [end recording]

A commission of eight CEN members was elected during the meeting. The members will reportedly begin to function as mediators in the Venezuelan situation, and they will reportedly be in charge of meeting with all the groups in the country to study the possibility of issuing reforms to the Constitution; of strengthening the country's democratic system; of analyzing proposals from the Advisory Council; and of reviewing the situation prevailing in the country as a result of drops in international oil prices—as well as their effect in the budget.

The commission appointed by AD's CEN will be in a permanent session, and it must provide results of the investigations carried out to decide the ruling party's policies within a week.